

CLASSIFICATION SECRETCOUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Occupation of Military Installations at the Rathenow Post

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 21 July 1954

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

642405

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED
Information

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1. Between 8 and 22 June 1954, the Kraftfahrer Kaserne (5443) in Rathenow was occupied by 400 to 500 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery and motor transport insignia. On 9 and 15 June, 8 and 3 rocket launchers respectively entered the installation. The eight rocket launchers which arrived on 9 June came from the direction of Premnitz. Between 9 and 21 June, soldiers observed in the installation engaged exclusively in cleaning of motor vehicles and driving school practices. Motor vehicles [redacted] were seen entering and leaving the installation.

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2. Between 29 June and 4 July, the Kraftfahrer Kaserne was occupied by an estimated 250 soldiers. Between 1000 and 1620 on 29 June, the following troops and materiel from the installation were entrained at the Rathenow Nordbahnhof: 12 rocket launchers, 2 radio trucks, 2 field kitchens, 3 repair shop trucks, 2 jeeps and about 20 trucks with approximately 250 soldiers. At about 1900, the train left toward Gross Ludicke via the main railroad station. [redacted]

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3. Between 8 June and 4 July, the Pionier Kaserne (5442) in Rathenow was occupied by a guard and rear detail of about 120 soldiers. On 12 June, 4 guns, presumably 122-mm field howitzers, and about 25 trucks with 10 officers and about 120 EM entered the installation from the direction of Altengrabow. [redacted]

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[redacted] in the afternoon on 16 June, 4 guns which were presumed to be 122-mm field howitzers and about 25 trucks with 130 soldiers left the installation toward Altengrabow. [redacted]

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4. Between 8 June and 4 July, the Infanterie Kaserne (5441) in Rathenow was occupied by about 80 soldiers of a guard detail. The soldiers wore red-bordered black epaulets and included some with artillery insignia. No training or heavy weapons were observed. Motor vehicles [redacted] entered and left the installation. 25X1 25X1
5. Between 8 June and 4 July, the Ziethen Kaserne (5444) in Rathenow was occupied by approximately 100 soldiers. About 80 of these soldiers belonged to the Rathenow kommandatura and the others to the guard detail of the headquarters stationed in the installation. A depot for military equipment and billeting equipment was quartered in a former riding hall. The depot was continually guarded by sentries. [redacted] Sedan [redacted] occupied by a general entered the installation on 29 June and 1 July. 25X1 25X1 25X1
6. Beginning on 29 June, the Arado installation was occupied by about 170 soldiers. About 15 trucks and 4 rocket launchers entered the installation in the evening on 29 June.³
7. On 28 and 29 June, the barracks installations in Rathenow were occupied as follows:
the Ziethen Kaserne by 100 to 120 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia and a few, motor transport insignia; and; and, allegedly, by an army headquarters;
the Kraftfahrer Kaserne was partially occupied. Only one of the three barracks was lighted at dusk;
the Infanterie and Pionier Kasernen were very lightly occupied. The bulk of the units from Rathenow were allegedly stationed at the Altengrabow troop training grounds.⁴ 25X1
1. [redacted] Comment. According to previous information, a train [redacted] which carried 12 rocket launchers of the 25th RL Brig. went from Rathenow to Altengrabow on 29 June. [redacted] shipment of rocket launchers passing through the Rathenow main railroad station en route to Nordbahnhof on 2 July. It had been assumed that the elements of the brigade which left on 29 June, returned to the post as early as 2 July. This assumption is not confirmed by observations in the present report which covers the period up to and including 4 July. 25X1 25X1 25X1 25X1
2. [redacted] Comment. On 12 June, a battery of the 18th Hvy Arty Bde presumably returned from the Altengrabow troop training grounds to relieve a rear detail of the brigade stationed in Pionier Kaserne. The rear detail went to Altengrabow on 16 June. 25X1
3. [redacted] Comment. An ordnance and equipment depot is believed to be located in the Arado installation. A reoccupation by troops appears rather improbable. 25X1
4. [redacted] Comment. The bulk of the units of the 6th Arty Div and the headquarters units of the IV Arty Corps was located in Altengrabow until early July. [redacted] 25X1 25X1

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